Agency 37 - Workers' Compensation Court

Statutory Authority:

The NE Workers' Compensation Court was created in 1935 pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of NE. Chapter 48, Sections 101-191, 1,110, 1,113-1,118 of the Revised Statutes of NE provide for the authority and responsibilities of the Court. The Court also operates in accordance with its Rules of Procedure which have been adopted pursuant to Section 48-163. Section 48-1,116, establishes the Compensation Court Cash Fund which was created in 1993 to aid in providing for the expense of administering the Act and for the salaries and expenses of the personnel of the Court.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Court is to provide prompt resolution of disputed cases and to provide information and assistance necessary to effectuate the Workers' Compensation Act.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court is to impartially and efficiently administer and enforce all of the provisions of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act.

The principles of the Court include remaining impartial in all disputes between employers and employees, to be responsive to the needs of the various parties involved in the workers' compensation system, and to operate programs efficiently so as to help reduce the costs of the system.

Goals:

1. Adjudicate contested cases in a timely fashion within the formal hearing process
2. Provide a program to resolve disputed issues or cases through informal means
3. Inform, educate, assist and train stakeholders
4. Conduct the activities of the federal grant as contracted with the Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics
5. Use technology to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, accuracy and ability of the Court to meet its goals and statutory obligations
6. Oversee appropriate vocational rehabilitation services that return injured employees to suitable employment
7. Administer the Second Injury Trust Fund in accordance with the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
8. Administer a program for self insurance in accordance with the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act
9. Process First Reports of Injury and Records of Compensation Payment so that data is readily accessible and accurate as reported

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	2,818,799	3,152,623	3,803,173	3,134,592	3,603,753	3,224,249
Federal Fund	27,927	51,265	27,157	28,117	27,157	29,339
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,846,726	3,203,888	3,830,330	3,162,709	3,630,910	3,253,588

Agency 37 - Workers' Compensation Court
Program 526 - Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program is maintained solely for the purpose of tracking the salaries, benefits, and workers' compensation assessment for the seven Judges of the Workers' Compensation Court. All other administration and adjudicative expenses are budgeted to Program 530. The salary level is established by statute (Section 48-159) at 92.5% of the salary level of the Supreme Court Justices. The salary level was last increased on July 1, 1998 and continues at the same rate in this request.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	635,677	723,968	723,968	751,462	723,968	757,490
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	635,677	723,968	723,968	751,462	723,968	757,490

Performance Measures:

Performance measures are not appropriate for salaries set by statute for judges. A measure of their work is provided in Program 530 as part of the total Court effort to promptly resolve disputed cases.

Agency 37 - Workers' Compensation Court
Program 530 - Work Comp Administration

Program Objectives:

The objectives of the Court are to adjudicate cases in a timely fashion; resolve disputed issues/cases through informal means; inform, educate, assist & train stakeholders; conduct the federal survey of work-related injuries/illnesses & the data collection program for fatal injuries; use technology to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, accuracy and ability of the Court; oversee appropriate vocational rehabilitation services; administer the Second Injury Trust Fund and self insurance program; process First Report of Injury & Records of Compensation Pymt to make data readily available; implement statutes authorizing managed care & develop medical fee schedule; enforce compliance with NE Workers' Compensation Act; & train/develop staff in skills needed to meet the goals of the Court.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	2,183,122	2,428,655	3,079,205	2,383,130	2,879,785	2,466,759
Federal Fund	27,927	51,265	27,157	28,117	27,157	29,339
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,211,049	2,479,920	3,106,362	2,411,247	2,906,942	2,496,098

Performance Measures:

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
# of appl for 1st contested stage	1109	1144	1144	1144
# of dispositions @ 1st contested stage	1239	1226	1226	1226
Avg # of days elpsd btwn appl & fin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of appl for review stage	102	131	131	131
# of dispositions @ review stage	97	135	135	135
Avg # of days elpsd btwn appl & fin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of appeals to Appeals & Supreme Ct	43	44	44	44
Mileage traveled by judges to hearings	22,133	27,210	27,210	27,210
# of motions filed	470	500	500	500
# of dispositions of motions filed	412	470	470	470
Avg # of days elpsd btwn filng & fin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of hearings held rltd to motions	138	150	150	150
# of LSS reviewed for appr/disapp	2154	2263	2263	2263
Avg # of dys elpsd btwn flng sett & ord	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of phys app as IME	339	340	340	340
Req filed for assign of IME	125	125	125	125
# of req for voluntary IDR	164	240	300	360
# of pro-se pet cases frwd for IDR	42	55	65	75
# of law books printed	800	1300	1900	2600
# of rule books printed	1400	1900	2500	3000
# of fee schedules printed	1250	1250	1250	1250